Progress of the Negro - 1936

New Year Book to Trace Last 70 Years' Progress

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala.—The extent of progress made by the Negro race during the last 70 years is shown in a table which will be printed in the new edition of the Negro Year Book which will come from the press sometime next summer.

The table, prepared by Monroe Work, editor of the Year Book and director of the records and research department of the institute, covers the period from 1866 to 1936.

ECONOMIC PROGRESS

	1866	1936	Gain
Homes Owned	12,000	750,000	738,000
Farms Operated	20,000	880,000	860,000
Business Conducted	2,100	70,000	67,900
Wealth Accumulated	$20,000,000	$2,500,000,000	$2,480,000,000

EDUCATION PROGRESS

	1866	1936	Gain
Per Cent Literate	10	90	80
Schools for Higher Training Including Public High Schools	15	800	785
Students in Public Schools	100,000	2,500,000	2,400,000
Teachers in All Teachers	600	55,000	54,400
Property for Higher Education	$60,000	$65,000,000	$64,940,000
Annual Expenditures for All Education	$700,000	$61,700,000	$61,000,000
Raised by Negroes	$80,000	$3,500,000	$3,420,000

RELIGIOUS PROGRESS

	1866	1936	Gain
Number Churches	700	45,000	44,300
Communicants	600,000	5,300,000	4,700,000
Sunday Schools	1,000	36,000	35,000
Sunday School Pupils	50,000	2,200,000	2,150,000
Value Church Property	$1,500,000	$210,000,000	$208,500,000

Savannah, Ga., News
May 1, 1936

Exposition at Atlanta.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 30 (AP).—Approval of a resolution to appropriate $2,000,000 for a national exposition in Atlanta this year to depict the work and progress of the negro race was urged today before a Senate subcommittee headed by Senator O'Mahoney (Democrat, Wyoming). Those who appeared included Mary M. Bethune of Daytona Fla., and Jess O. Thomas of Atlanta both negroes.

BALTIMORE, MD.
EVENING SUN

JUN 3 - 1936

Who's Who Among Negroes In Baltimore

By CLARK S. HOBBS

ALMOST any Baltimorean can name offhand a goodly percentage of the men and women of the city who are outstanding in business, the professions and other interests and activities. But since the white race is the dominant race in the community it is safe to say that the distinction will be thought of only as it applies to white individuals. That there are other racial groups within which such things as success, achievement, distinction and leadership may occur is all too often overlooked.

It is well to be reminded that in any American city as large as Baltimore there are communities within the community, sometimes quite sharply defined. That is always the case where color distinguishes a lesser group. The Negro, in particular, is definitely differentiated from the white community by the hue of his skin and just as definitely separated from it by social practice. By force of necessity the Negro group has developed within itself a social pattern with standards and criteria of its own, determined by the attainments and achievements of its membership.

There are in Baltimore 152,000 Negroes. That is the equivalent of a fairly large city. Any such group of metropolitan proportions would have its leading citizens, its outstanding doctors, lawyers, business men. It is reasonable to look for such products of its culture as artists, musicians, composers, authors, educators, clergymen.

Who are they? Inquiry reveals the identity of some of them. Their stories, were space available to relate them, would be filled with triumphs over limited opportunities, economic and social handicaps. They have attained business success, scholarship, eminence among their own people by virtue of the same qualities that have raised white men above the common level.

—o—

TO begin in a familiar field, Baltimore's Negro community supports a semi-weekly newspaper, the *Afro-American*, which is rated tops among Negro journals. It was founded by John Murphy and is headed now by a son of the founder, Carl J. Murphy, to whose enterprise the expanding influence of the paper is attributed. He was graduated from Howard University in 1911 with an A. B. degree, *cum laude*. He received an M. A. degree from Harvard in 1913 and subsequently pursued special courses at the University of Jena, in Germany. He taught German at Howard University for five years.

Harry O. Wilson is one of very few if not the only Negro banker in the State of Maryland, but that, in late years, has become a secondary interest with him. In 1903 he founded a mutual benefit society which has grown to large proportions. He employs in his offices some seventy-eight persons. He is regarded as a wealthy man.

Josiah Diggs is the oldest successful Negro business man in the city. Prior to 1917 he engaged in various enterprises. That year he built a small theater. In 1923 he built the largest theater for Negroes in Baltimore. It seats 1,000 people.

William H. Langley began his career as employe in a commission house. He decided to set up business for himself. Today he does a large wholesale fruit and produce business with an establishment in the center of Baltimore's commission district.

William B. Dixon has developed the only local small loan organization operated by and for Negroes. Its volume of business is large. He has two associates, J. Arnett Frisby, a graduate of the business school of Howard University, and Marion S. Pollett, prominent in Negro fraternal orders.

Harry T. Pratt has the rare distinction of being both an educator and a business man. He is the principal of the Douglass High School and the proprietor of a sizable steam laundry. He is a graduate of Morgan College. His business enterprise is managed by Wallace Lansey, who also is a member of the board of directors of the Provident Hospital.

Willard W. Allen is the president of a life insurance company doing a net business of more than $140,000 a year. He is Grand Master of Masons for the State of Maryland and a national officer of that Negro fraternal order as well. He was a member of the Zoning Commission under the administration of Mayor Broening.

Charles Shipley and Thomas Waters are seen at many a white social function. They are popular caterers. Their terrapin has a reputation. Quantities of it are shipped each winter to New York city.

—o—

SO much for business men. There are in the city some 3,000 colored citizens engaged in professional occupations of one kind or another. Teachers head the list in point of number but there are in the group physicians, lawyers, clergymen, musicians and diplomats. Any list of outstanding educators would include, in addition to Harry T. Pratt, already mentioned:

Dr. Francis M. Wood, director of colored schools. Dr. Wood came to Baltimore from Kentucky where, for ten years, he was president of the Kentucky Negro Teachers' Association. He has also been president of the National Negro Teachers' Association. He has held his present position with the Baltimore public schools for nine years.

Miles W. Connor, principal of the Coppin Normal School, which trains Negro teachers for the public school system. He is an alumnus of Columbia University, where he received the M.A. degree.

Carrington L. Davis, principal of Dunbar Junior High School. He is a graduate of Morgan College and received his A.B. from Harvard and his M.A. from Columbia. He has taught Greek at Morgan College and Latin and German at the Douglass High School. He is chairman of the board of directors of the Druid Hill avenue branch of the Y. M. C. A.

Edward N. Wilson, registrar of Morgan College. He is an alumnus of that institution and has been its registrar since 1921.

George Cameron Grant, director of the department of education at Morgan College. He is a graduate of Morgan and took his master's degree at Columbia. At present he is conducting a survey of Negroes in Baltimore for the Works Progress Administration with special reference to skilled, semi-skilled and professional workers.

And in this connection it seems proper to mention Edward P. Hurt, athletic coach at Morgan College. He is rated among the best of his race in the country.

His football team has won the national intercollegiate championship for Negro colleges for the past four years.

—o—

THERE are many Negro physicians.

Some while ago Dr. J. M. T. Finney, with the coöperation of other Johns Hopkins specialists, selected a number of the ablest young Negro doctors and gave them an intensive five-year course in surgery at Provident Hospital, a Negro institution. Among these were:

Dr. Robert L. Jackson, a graduate of Meharry Medical School, of Nashville, Tenn. He was the first to finish the Finney course.

Dr. Bernard Harris, graduate of Howard University Medical School.

Dr. I. Bradshaw Higgins, graduate of Meharry Medical School. Dr. Higgins took the National Medical Board examination and led the list at the University of Alabama.

Others are:

Dr. W. F. Noville, specialist in internal medicine. He was one of the leaders in the last Community Fund Campaign.

Dr. Ralph J. Young, graduate of Howard University Medical School. He is rated high as a physician.

Prominent Negro dentists are Dr. Albert O. Reid and Dr. William B. Mason, both graduates of Howard University Dental School. Both have taken active parts in Negro civic affairs.

—o—

IN the law, William Ashbie Hawkins and Warner T. McGuinn are widely known outside of their racial group. The former graduated from the University of Maryland Law School in 1891 and became conspicuous some years ago as a foe of segregation ordinances. The latter is an alumnus of Yale Law School and was a member of the City Council 1911-1921 and 1927-1931. William L. Fitzgerald, lawyer and successful real estate dealer, was also a member of the City Council in 1919. He is a graduate of Howard University. Roy S. Bond is known as the Negro divorce lawyer. He is said to handle more divorce suits than all the rest of the Negro lawyers in the city.

—o—

IN recent years social work has opened as a field for educated Negro men and women and many have entered it. Among them may be mentioned:

Miss Juanita E. Jackson, president of the City-Wide Young People's Forum. Miss Jackson is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, where she was secretary of the Commission on Interracial Coöperation.

Samuel R. Morsell, executive secretary of the Druid Hill branch of the Y. M. C. A. He is a graduate of Oberlin College and Yale Divinity School.

Mrs. Sarah Collins Fernandis, president of the Women's Coöperative Civic League and author of a book of poems titled "Vision." She is a graduate of Hampton Institute and the New York School of Social Work.

Edward S. Lewis, executive secretary of the Baltimore Urban League, which is dedicated to the improvement of interracial relations. He is a native of Missouri, won a scholarship from Sumner High School, Kansas City, to the University of Chicago, where he was graduated as a bachelor of philosophy. He came to the Urban League from Kansas City in 1927. He is a member of twenty-four interracial boards.

The Rev. Beal Elliott, head of the Negro division of the probation department of the Baltimore Supreme Bench.

Mrs. Betty Jenkins Phillips, superintendent of Provident Hospital.

—o—

ARTISTS there are of the canvas, the stage, the screen, the concert. Elton C. Fax, who recently painted a mural for the Dunbar Junior High School, has been rated high by critics and recently left Baltimore to teach art at Clafflin College, South Carolina. Anne Wiggins Brown recently achieved fame as the star of Porgy and Bess. Sheldon Hoskins is an exponent of interpretive dancing and a promoter of Negro amateur shows. Clarence Muse, a native of Baltimore, has appeared in many motion pictures.

In music Baltimore Negroes have won distinction in every classification from jazz to symphony. Cab Calloway, of Cotton Club Orchestra fame, is a Baltimore lad. Ulysses Chambre, formerly director of the Green Pastures choir, is a Baltimorean. The success of Baltimore's Negro Symphonic Orchestra and the Negro chorus is largely due to the able leadership of W. Llewellyn Wilson. And the list would not be complete without mention of Ellis Lane Larkins, the 11-year-old prodigy, whose extraordinary performances on the piano have been a recent sensation in the city.

If space permitted, many more names might be added to each of the groups here presented. And no mention has been made of clergymen, among whom there is one who is both clergyman and diplomat, the Rev. J. Ernest Lyon, pastor of Ames Methodist Episcopal Church, who was Minister to Liberia from the United States, 1903-1911, and who is now Liberian Consul-General in the United States. Other active clergymen are the Rev. A. J. Payne, of the Enon Baptist Church, and the Rev. George F. Bragg, Jr., of St. James' Protestant Episcopal Church.

Lynchburg Negroes Played Important Part In Developing City

Journal and Guide 10-24-36

LYNCHBURG, Va.—When John Lynch gave the first plot of ground 150 years ago which was to become the cradle of the beautiful city of Lynchburg little did the people realize that Negroes who were then mostly slaves would play such an important part in the development and growth of the new city.

Practically all the cities in this section of Virginia have a comparatively small Negro population in comparison with the total. But the heritage of Lynchburg Negroes is something for which to be proud. Back in the days when the state constitution was written, F. C. Kelso of Campbell county where Lynchburg is located was elected to the state constitutional convention which met in Richmond and laid the basis for the development of one of the outstanding states of the Union.

It was Kelso with other liberal Negroes who insisted that Virginia should have a public school system. Aristocratic whites were strongly opposed to this proposal and fought bitterly against it. They were able to send their children to private schools or secure private tutors for them.

Negroes of Kelso's type also assisted in framing a constitution which would make possible the development of social service by the state for its citizens. Aristocratic whites were generally against social legislation for the benefit of the poor and Negroes.

Lynchburg Negroes were thrifty and ambitious in the early days of the city as many are developing business enterprises of worth and aid to members of our group. The first laundry in the city, for example, according to reliable source, was operated here by a Negro woman familiarly known as "Aunt Julia."

A Negro named Crawford is reported to have operated one of the first book stores in the city on Main Street at Fifth. Mrs. Alice Vassar of Lynchburg was the first Negro college graduate in America to teach in the public schools of Virginia.

In the nineties Negroes of Lynchburg operated drays and taxi buses in every section of the city. They operated grocery stores, fish markets, hardware stores, laundries and other businesses. Strange and Higginbotham established in those thrifty days is still a large concern with improved equipment and up to date service. C. V. Wilson, Undertakers and Embalmers, is a recent addition to Negro business in the city of a type to encourage and inspire our youth.

Closely associated with the life and experience of Lynchburg Negroes was the founding of Virginia Seminary which for many years was the center of Negro activities and life not only in Lynchburg but in the state as well.

If Lynchburg Negroes continue the progress made by the forebears during the past seventy-five years, the Bi-Centennial of the city will be an occasion for a much greater celebration.